

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 A-01 AID-05 USIA-06 /024 W

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P 142014Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7397

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 2608

FOR SY/FO FROM RSO PANAMA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: MARINE SECURITY GUARD

REF: SY/FO MEMORANDUM OF 3/22/76

1. THE INFORMATION FURNISHED IN MY MRMORANDUM OF 3/8/76 CONCERNING THE ABOVE SUBJECT WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE CONSIDERED AS A REQUEST FOR MSG TO INCREASE. IT WAS FURNISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING YOU FULLY AWARE OF THE REASONS WHY THIS EMBASSY HAD BEEN OVERSTRENGTH BY ONE MSG FOR A TIME UP UNTIL APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH PRIOR THE DAY OF MY MEMORANDUM. IN APPRISING YOU OF THESE REASONS, IT APPEARED BOTH APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY TO, AT THE SAME TIME, ALERT YOU OF THIS POST'S ANTICIPATED FUTURE NEEDS FOR AN INCREASE IN TO OF TWO ADDITIONAL MSG WATCHSTANDERS EFFECTIVE APPROXIMATELY 5/1/76. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE MAY 1, 1976, DATE FOR OPENING THE NEW COMMERCIAL LIBRARY NOW APPEARS FIRM AND IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THIS TELEGRAM WERE CONSIDERED AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN TO FOR TWO ADDITIONAL MSG WATCHSTANDERS FOR THIS EMBASSY.

2. AT PRESENT AS YOU ARE AWARE THE TO FOR THIS EMBASSY IS SEVEN MSG WATCHSTANDERS AND ONE NCOIC. THESE WATCHSTANDERS MAN POSTS NO. 1, NO. 2 AND NO. 3. POST NO. 1 IS LOCATED AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE EMBASSY AND IS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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24 HOUR POST REQUIRING COVERAGE OF 168 HOURS PER WEEK.

POST NO. 2 IS A ROVING POST WHICH RELIEVES FOR NOON MEALS; CONDUCTS NOON SECURITY INSPECTIONS OF THE EMBASSY; CONDUCTS EVENING SECURITY INSPECTIONS OF USIS AND USAID; ESCORTS CHARFORCE OF USAID; CONDUCTS EVENING SECURITY INSPECTIONS OF THE EMBASSY, THE REGIONAL MARINE OFFICE AND THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND ASSISTS IN ESCORT OF CONTRACT WORKERS. POST NO. 3 AT PRESENT IS LOCATED AT THE NEW CONSULATE AND OPERATES FROM 0800 TO 1430, A TOTAL OF 35 HOURS PER WEEK, THE HOURS IN WHICH THE CONSULATE IS ACTUALLY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. THESE 35 HOURS ALSO INCLUDE A SECURITY INSPECTION OF THE CONSULATE EACH EVENING. WITH THE PRESENT TO AND THE 258 HOURS PER WEEK INDICATED BY THE THREE POSTS, THE AVERAGE WORKING HOURS PER WEEK PER MARINE IS 36.8 ACTUAL AND WITH THE 1/9 FACTOR AN AVERAGE OF 40.9 HOURS PER WEEK.

3. IN THE EVENT THIS REQUEST FOR TO INCREASE IS APPROVED AND FULLY COVERAGE 8:00 TO 5:00 OF THE CONSULAR SECTION AND SIMILAR COVERAGE WHILE THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY THESE TWO POSTS WILL AMOUNT TO AN ADDITIONAL 47.5 MEN HOURS PER WEEK. WITH NINE MSGS AND ONE NCOIC, THIS WILL AMOUNT TO AN AVERAGE OF 33.9 ACTUAL HOURS PER WEEK PER MSG AND WITH THE 1/9 FACTOR IT WILL AMOUNT TO AN AVERAGE 37.7 HOURS PER MSG.

4. THIS MATTER HAS BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY BOTH THE AMBASSADOR AND THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION AND THE POST FEELS VERY STRONGLY THAT SINCE THE ENTRANCE TO THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY, WHICH ENTERS INTO THE EMBASSY OFF CALLE 38 AND AT AVENIDA BALBOA, WAS FORMERLY THE ENTRANCE INTO THE CONSULAR SECTION AND WAS MANNED BY A MSG, THERE IS EQUAL JUSTIFICATION FOR A SIMILARLY MSG MANNED POST AT PRESENT. THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY WILL BE LOCATED UNDERNEATH THE EXECUTIVE OFFICES OF THE AMBASSADOR AND, AS SUCH, IF NOT PROPERLY PROTECTED FROM A SECURITY STANDPOINT, WILL LEAVE THESE OFFICES COMPLETELY VULNERABLE TO VARIOUS TYPES OF EXPLOSIVE DEVICES. ALSO, SINCE CLASSIFIED MATERIAL WILL BE STORED IN VARIOUS OFFICES OF THE COMMERCIAL/ECONOMIC SECTION WHICH JOINS THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY, THIS POST FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR A LOCAL CONTRACT GUARD TO BE UTILIZED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MANNING THE POST TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY. ADDITIONALLY, THIS POST FEELS THAT ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY HAS NOT BEEN FREQUENTLY UTILIZED IN THE PAST IS BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN INACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC EXCEPT WHEN ONE IS ESCORTED BOTH TO AND FROM BY CLEARNED AMERICAN PERSONNEL. THIS POST IS OF THE OPINION THAT WERE A LOCAL CONTRACT GUARD UTILIZED AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY TO INSPECT LADIES HANDBAGS,

AS WELL AS ALL PACKAGES, BRIEFCASES, PARCELS, ETC., INSTEAD OF A MSG, WE WILL EXPERIENCE THE SAME LACK OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN AND UTILIZATION OF THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY THAT WE HAVE WITNESSED IN THE PAST.

5. THIS POST LIKEWISE, IS OF THE OPINION THAT UTILIZATION OF LOCAL CONTRACT GUARD AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE NEW CONSULATE, INSTEAD OF A MSG, BESIDES BEING MORE EXPENSIVE, CONSIDERING WAGES, SOCIAL SECURITY, LEAVE, ETC., WOULD ALSO BE LESS THAN DESIRABLE FROM A SECURITY STANDPOINT. FOR EXAMPLE, IF A LOCAL CONTRACT GUARD IS USED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CONSULATE IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO HIRE TWO SUCH GUARDS, ONE OF WHOM WOULD SERVE AS BACK UP WHEN THE REGULAR GUARD IS ON SICK LEAVE, ANNUAL LEAVE OR IS ABSENT FOR OTHER REASONS. IT IS FELT, AS PREVIOUSLY POINTED OUT, REGARDING THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY POST THAT WE WOULD LIKEWISE EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTIES WITH A LOCAL CONTRACT GUARD EXAMINING LADIES PURSES, BRIEFCASES, PACKAGES AND PARCELS. LIKEWISE THIS POST FEELS IT WOULD BE POOR SECURITY TO HAVE A LOCAL CONTRACT GUARD PROTECTING CLASSIFIED MATERIAL WITHIN THE CONSULATE. FURTHER TO HAVE A CONTRACT LOCAL GUARD PROVIDE PROTECTIVE SECURITY FOR THE CONSULATE DURING THE REGULAR WORKDAY AND THEN BY NECESSITY HAVING TO PROVIDE AN MSG FOR SHAKEDOWN AND CHAR ESCORT AFTER HOURS WOULD APPEAR TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH GOOD SECURITY PRACTICES AND SOMEWHAT FUTILE.

6. DUE TO WHAT WOULD APPEAR TO BE AN INCREASE IN TENSIONS (BOMB THREATS, ESCALATED LABOR, STUDENT AND GENERAL UNREST) BROUGHT ABOUT BY STATEMENTS IN THE LOCAL AND U.S. PRESS REGARDING THE CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS, THE POST FEELS THAT MSG COVERAGE OF BOTH THE CONSULATE AND THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY IS IMPERATIVE BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSSIBILITY OF RECURRENCE OF ATTACKS ON THE CHANCERY. IF THIS REQUEST IS APPROVED THE TWO ADDITIONAL MSGS WILL BE HOUSED TEMPORARILY, UNTIL THE DEPARTMENT REPLIES TO PANAMA 2151, IN THE EMBASSY STAFF APARTMENTS, THUS NEGATING THE NEED FOR AN INCREASE/DECREASE STATEMENT AT THIS TIME.

7. YOUR EARLY CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THIS REQUEST OF MSG TO INCREASE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

JORDEN

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